

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A clip comprising a flange larger than a through-hole in an attached member, a shank unitary with the flange and extending from the flange at one end of the shank to a predetermined height along a longitudinal axis of the shank for insertion into the through-hole, a pair of arms extending from an opposite end of the shank and ~~hinged~~ having base portions connected thereto by hinges for rotation of the arms relative to the shank, and levers extending from ~~bases of~~ respective arms, and having base portions connected to the base portions of the respective arms adjacent to the hinges connected thereto for rotation of the levers with the arms, and providing spaces with respect to the arms for receiving portions of a through-hole section of the attached member between the arms and the levers, wherein, the clip is constructed so that in an initial posture of the clip, the arms extend substantially axially of the shank beyond said opposite end of the shank, and the levers extend beyond said opposite end of the shank longitudinally away from the shank and laterally away from the shank to form acute angles with respect to the longitudinal axis of the shank, so that tip portions of the levers are disposed to engage one side of

the attached member before the shank is inserted into the through-hole, and wherein the clip is constructed so that when the shank is inserted into the through-hole, the arms rotate together with the levers from the initial posture to an interposed posture at which the portions of the through-hole section of the attached member are received in the spaces, at which the levers are in contact with said one side of the attached member, the arms are substantially parallel to the flange and in contact with an opposite side of the attached member, and the flange is juxtaposed with the one side of the attached member.

2. (original) The clip of claim 1, wherein the arms and levers are paired diametrically with respect to the shank.

3. (currently amended) ~~The clip of claim 1,~~ A clip comprising a flange larger than a through-hole in an attached member, a shank unitary with the flange and extending from the flange at one end of the shank to a predetermined height along a longitudinal axis of the shank for insertion into the through-hole, a pair of arms extending from an opposite end of the shank and hinged thereto for rotation relative to the shank, and levers extending from bases of respective arms, connected thereto for rotation with the arms, and providing spaces with respect to the arms for receiving portions of a through-hole section of the attached member between the arms and the

levers, wherein, the clip is constructed so that in an initial posture of the clip, the arms extend substantially axially of the shank beyond said opposite end of the shank, and the levers extend beyond said opposite end of the shank longitudinally away from the shank and laterally away from the shank to form acute angles with respect to the longitudinal axis of the shank, so that tip portions of the levers are disposed to engage one side of the attached member before the shank is inserted into the through-hole, and wherein the clip is constructed so that when the shank is inserted into the through-hole, the arms rotate together with the levers from the initial posture to an interposed posture at which the portions of the through-hole section of the attached member are received in the spaces, at which the levers are in contact with said one side of the attached member, the arms are substantially parallel to the flange and in contact with an opposite side of the attached member, and the flange is juxtaposed with the one side of the attached member, wherein the levers are hinged at a middle position thereof to allow a tip portion of the levers to rotate relative to a base portion of the levers.

4. (currently amended) ~~The clip of claim 1,~~ A clip comprising a flange larger than a through-hole in an attached member, a shank unitary with the flange and extending from the flange at one end of the shank to a predetermined height along a longitudinal axis of the shank for insertion into the through-hole, a pair of arms

extending from an opposite end of the shank and hinged thereto for rotation relative to the shank, and levers extending from bases of respective arms, connected thereto for rotation with the arms, and providing spaces with respect to the arms for receiving portions of a through-hole section of the attached member between the arms and the levers, wherein, the clip is constructed so that in an initial posture of the clip, the arms extend substantially axially of the shank beyond said opposite end of the shank, and the levers extend beyond said opposite end of the shank longitudinally away from the shank and laterally away from the shank to form acute angles with respect to the longitudinal axis of the shank, so that tip portions of the levers are disposed to engage one side of the attached member before the shank is inserted into the through-hole, and wherein the clip is constructed so that when the shank is inserted into the through-hole, the arms rotate together with the levers from the initial posture to an interposed posture at which the portions of the through-hole section of the attached member are received in the spaces, at which the levers are in contact with said one side of the attached member, the arms are substantially parallel to the flange and in contact with an opposite side of the attached member, and the flange is juxtaposed with the one side of the attached member, wherein each arm has an arm-end locking pawl at the base thereof extending towards the flange when the arm is in the interposed posture, and wherein cooperable flange-end locking pawls are formed on the flange to engage

the arm-end locking pawls and keep the arms in the interposed posture.

5. (previously presented) The clip of claim 4, wherein a protrusion is formed on each arm protruding a fixed height from the opposite end of the shank when the arm is in the interposed posture, and wherein a force to engage each arm-end locking pawl with the cooperable flange-end locking pawl is obtained from pressure on the protrusions.

6. (original) The clip of claim 1, wherein the shank and the arms are connected by breakable thin webs for reliably keeping the arms and levers in the initial posture.

7. (original) The clip of claim 4, wherein the arm-end locking pawls and the flange are connected by breakable thin webs for reliably keeping the arms and levers in the initial posture.

8. (original) The clip of claim 1, wherein boundary surfaces of the spaces between the arms and the levers contact curved boundary surface portions of the through-hole of the attached member and are similarly curved.

9. (currently amended) ~~The clip of claim 1,~~ A clip comprising a flange larger than a through-hole in an attached member, a shank unitary with the flange and extending from the flange at one end of the shank to a

predetermined height along a longitudinal axis of the shank
for insertion into the through-hole, a pair of arms
extending from an opposite end of the shank and hinged
thereto for rotation relative to the shank, and levers
extending from bases of respective arms, connected thereto
for rotation with the arms, and providing spaces with
respect to the arms for receiving portions of a through-hole
section of the attached member between the arms and the
levers, wherein, the clip is constructed so that in an
initial posture of the clip, the arms extend substantially
axially of the shank beyond said opposite end of the shank,
and the levers extend beyond said opposite end of the shank
longitudinally away from the shank and laterally away from
the shank to form acute angles with respect to the
longitudinal axis of the shank, so that tip portions of the
levers are disposed to engage one side of the attached
member before the shank is inserted into the through-hole,
and wherein the clip is constructed so that when the shank
is inserted into the through-hole, the arms rotate together
with the levers from the initial posture to an interposed
posture at which the portions of the through-hole section of
the attached member are received in the spaces, at which the
levers are in contact with said one side of the attached
member, the arms are substantially parallel to the flange
and in contact with an opposite side of the attached member,
and the flange is juxtaposed with the one side of the
attached member, wherein the shank has a hollow section to

accommodate a threaded stud, and wherein the hollow section has a pawl for engaging the threaded stud.

10. (currently amended) ~~The clip of claim 1,~~ A clip comprising a flange larger than a through-hole in an attached member, a shank unitary with the flange and extending from the flange at one end of the shank to a predetermined height along a longitudinal axis of the shank for insertion into the through-hole, a pair of arms extending from an opposite end of the shank and hinged thereto for rotation relative to the shank, and levers extending from bases of respective arms, connected thereto for rotation with the arms, and providing spaces with respect to the arms for receiving portions of a through-hole section of the attached member between the arms and the levers, wherein, the clip is constructed so that in an initial posture of the clip, the arms extend substantially axially of the shank beyond said opposite end of the shank, and the levers extend beyond said opposite end of the shank longitudinally away from the shank and laterally away from the shank to form acute angles with respect to the longitudinal axis of the shank, so that tip portions of the levers are disposed to engage one side of the attached member before the shank is inserted into the through-hole, and wherein the clip is constructed so that when the shank is inserted into the through-hole, the arms rotate together with the levers from the initial posture to an interposed posture at which the portions of the through-hole section of

the attached member are received in the spaces, at which the levers are in contact with said one side of the attached member, the arms are substantially parallel to the flange and in contact with an opposite side of the attached member, and the flange is juxtaposed with the one side of the attached member, wherein the shank has a hollow section to accommodate a rod-shaped object such as a stud or bolt, and wherein the hollow section is devoid of a pawl.

11. (currently amended) A clip for attachment to a sheet member via a through-hole in the sheet member, comprising:

a shank having unitarily therewith at one end a flange to be disposed at one side of the sheet member against a through-hole section of the sheet member, the shank having cross-dimensions parallel to the flange and having a length along a longitudinal axis perpendicular to the flange to permit the shank to be inserted through the through-hole in the sheet member from an initial posture to an interposed posture;

a pair of arms ~~hinged~~ having base portions connected by hinges to an end of the shank opposite to the flange and projecting substantially axially of the shank in the initial posture for insertion into the through-hole in advance of the shank; and

a pair of levers having base portions attached to the base portions of respective arms ~~at base portions thereof~~ adjacent to the hinges and projecting beyond said opposite

end of the shank longitudinally away from the shank and laterally away from the shank to form acute angles with respect to the longitudinal axis of the shank so that in the initial posture tip portions of the levers are disposed for engagement with said one side of the sheet member,

wherein the construction of the clip is such that as the shank is inserted into the through-hole, the arms and the levers rotate to the interposed posture, at which the arms contact a side of the sheet member opposite to said one side, the levers contact said one side of the sheet member, portions of the through-hole section are received in spaces between the arms and the respective levers, and the flange contacts the levers and is juxtaposed with said one side of the sheet member.

12. (previously presented) A clip according to claim 11, wherein each arm and a portion of the flange have cooperable pawls that engage one another to maintain the interposed posture.

13. (currently amended) A clip according to claim 11, wherein each lever has a hinge at a middle portion so that a tip portion of the lever can bend relative to a the base portion of the lever when the tip portion engages said one side of the sheet member.

14. (original) A clip according to claim 11, wherein each arm has a protrusion that faces away from the sheet member in the interposed posture.

15. (original) A clip according to claim 11, wherein the shank has a hollow section for receiving a stud therein.

16. (original) A clip according to claim 15, wherein the shank has at least one pawl inside the hollow section for engaging a threaded stud.

17. (original) A clip according to claim 11, wherein each arm has a breakable element for maintaining the initial posture of the arm.

18. ((currently amended) The clip of claim ~~4~~ 11, wherein each arm has an arm-end locking pawl at the base portion thereof extending towards the flange when the arm is in the interposed posture, and wherein cooperable flange-end locking pawls are formed on the shank near the flange to engage the arm-end locking pawls and keep the arms in the interposed posture.

19. (previously presented) A clip according to claim 11, wherein each arm and a portion of the flange end of the shank have cooperable pawls that engage one another to maintain the interposed posture.

20. (previously presented) The clip of claim 18, wherein a protrusion is formed on each arm protruding a fixed height from the opposite end of the shank when the arm is in the interposed posture, and wherein a force to engage each arm-end locking pawl with the cooperable flange-end locking pawl is obtained from pressure on the protrusions.